

Shorter Notices*

Gary Saxonhouse and T. N. Srinivasan (eds). *Development, Duality, and the International Economic Regime: Essays in Honour of Gustav Ranis*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: The University of Michigan Press, 1999. 496 pages. Hardbound. Price not given.

The volume comprehensively assesses the current pertinent issues facing developing countries and development economics. It has been compiled to honour Professor Gustav Ranis, the contributions being by his former students, past and present colleagues at Yale, and his fellow development economists. In the sixteen contributions included, four areas related to the major themes in economic development are covered. These include trade, technological transfer and economic development, international economic regime and economic development, and finance and economic development. Evidence is presented for a few major findings: duality in the labour market may be self-perpetuating without selective government intervention; contrary to earlier conjectures, trade liberalisation will have more than just a one-time impact on national economic performance; and using a nominal exchange rate anchor as a tool of stabilisation, policy in developing economies is fraught with difficulties. This volume, with contributions from renowned economists, is a valuable addition to studies in development economics.

Inge Kaul, Isabelle Grunberg, and Marc A. Stern (eds). *Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21st Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. 546 pages. Softbound. Price not given.

To understand the roots of the global crisis, the UNDP has produced a broad and profound study of global public goods. The concept of 'public goods' is expanded to include in it a global perspective. The volume deals with issues like global warming, transnational pollution, international assistance, and financial crisis.

The first part of the volume is introductory and reflects on the concept of global public goods. The second part investigates selected areas of global policy concern in case-studies that form the core of the volume. The areas covered are: equity and justice; health; knowledge and information; and peace and security. The third part answers the policy questions within a new theoretical framework. A case for increased international cooperation is made to provide the global public goods needed badly to give globalisation a human face.

Charles E. Morrison and Hadi Soesastro (eds). *Domestic Adjustments to Globalization*. Tokyo and New York: Japan Centre for International Exchange, 1998. 286 pages. Softbound. Price not given.

*By Sarfraz Khan Qureshi, Director, and Afia Malik, Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

The challenges of globalisation have taken on a new urgency in light of the deep effect of the Asian financial crisis on regional stability. Not only the East Asian region, but the entire world needs to review the positive and negative impact of globalisation as national societies attempt to make the needed adjustments without undue dislocation and economic pain.

The book is a collection of articles by eminent scholars on three dimensions of the domestic policy response to the rapidly unfolding saga of globalisation. The three dimensions are economic strategies, governance, and the role of leadership. The snapshot of globalisation pressures and the domestic policy debates in different countries indicates the complex nature of issues that need further analysis and interpretation.

Donald R. Snodgrass and Tyler Biggs. *Industrialization and the Small Firm: Patterns and Policies*. San Francisco: International Centre for Economic Growth and the Harvard Institute for International Development, 1996. 313 pages. Softbound. Price not given.

Industrialization and the Small Firm is about the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the industrialisation and economic development of developing countries. The book has two main parts. Part I is on the general issues and discusses the contributions of small and medium enterprises to productive and efficient use of scarce resources, employment creation, improved income distribution, regional dispersal of industry, and the development of dynamic private enterprise. Part II deals with the small enterprise policy at different levels of economic development in selected developing countries and regions to highlight which policies and programmes are more conducive to the development of SMEs in their varied settings.

The book is aimed at improving the reader's understanding of the dynamics of employment creation and enterprise development in developing countries. It will provide a better understanding of the role that SMEs play as developing countries industrialise, the effect various government policies have on these enterprises, and the ways in which their role in the economy can be optimised.

José M. Fanelli and Rohinton Medhora (eds). *Financial Reform in Developing Countries*. Ottawa, ON: International Development Research Centre, 1998. 366 pages. Softbound. Price not given.

Developing countries are undergoing significant structural adjustments. One of the most important and controversial adjustment areas is the financial markets. Poor functioning of the financial sector has its effect on financial institutions, depositors, resource allocation, and, ultimately, on growth and development. Financial liberalisation is realised to be a process but the issue of when and how to liberalise still wants wide consensus.

This volume gives a general introduction to financial reform in developing countries in Part I. In Part II, it highlights the reform experiences in Argentina, India, Nigeria, Turkey, and Uruguay. Part III discusses some thematic issues, including micro and macro level financial reform in Canada and its implications for the developing countries; the 'tequila effect' (Mexico's financial debacle and its impact on the emerging markets); 'big-bang' versus the 'go-slow' approach; role of banks in the transition to market economy in Central and Eastern Europe; and microeconomic elements and perspectives from finance theory.

Dieter Weiss and Ulrich Wurzel. *The Economics and Politics of Transition to an Open Market Economy: Egypt*. Paris: OECD, 1998. 229 pages. Softbound. Price not given.

Egypt has lagged behind other countries in the Middle East in reforming its economy. The book examines in detail the factors behind the failure of the Egyptian government in introducing and implementing reforms.

The authors in this book argue that the Egyptian political system, based to a large extent on discrete patronage and dominated by powerful interest groups, was inherently resistant to reform. In addition, the country's strategic position in Middle Eastern politics provided the environment for aid flows, which mitigated the need for change by creating an illusion of economic well-being. Egypt, thus, has been protected from the pressure of the international market system. It is strongly emphasised that such pressure is the only effective stimulus to fundamental reform.

Shahid Javed Burki. *Pakistan: Fifty Years of Nationhood*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999. 250 pages. Softbound. Price not given.

Although Pakistan achieved independence in 1947, it still has not succeeded in integrating its diverse people into a nation. The book traces the nation's search for stability in different areas of political, economic, and social development. It deals extensively with the political developments since 1991, including the elections of 1993 and 1996. Particular attention is paid to economic changes, including the financial crisis that led to the fall of Benazir Bhutto's government in 1996. Also included is an in-depth analysis of the nuclear race between India and Pakistan, an issue of global concern.

Edwin A. Gyasi and Juha I. Uitto (eds). *Environment, Biodiversity and Agricultural Change in West Africa: Perspectives from Ghana*. Tokyo, New York, Paris: United Nations University Press, 1997. 141 pages. Softbound. US \$ 25.00.

West Africa is a region of some 200 million people growing at a rate of three percent per annum. The region is predominantly agrarian. The state of the environment is crucial to its development. However, the rich biological resources, together with the diversified indigenous systems of managing them, have come

under increasing pressure by population growth, social change, migration to new areas and the degradation of earlier frontier regions, shifts in cash cropping, and of course the impact of policies about these matters.

The book provides a detailed analysis of the interrelationships between environment, biodiversity, and agricultural change in West Africa, with a special focus on Ghana. The contributors have emphasised the indigenous practices and their adaptations to rapidly changing conditions for sustainable development in the region.

Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak, R. V. Anuradha, and Bansuri Taneja (eds). *Communities and Conservation: Natural Resource Management in South and Central Asia*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1998. 505 pages. Hardbound. Indian Rs 495.00.

Community-based conservation (CBC) of natural habitat, wildlife, and biodiversity is getting attention throughout the world. This volume is a collection of 25 papers first presented at a regional workshop on Community-based Conservation in 1997 in New Delhi, focussing on the countries of South and Central Asia.

The volume is divided in four parts. The case-studies in Part I provide a general overview of CBC in Asia. Part II deals with the country profiles of CBC in India, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Part III explores some specific issues related to this, mainly from Indian experience. The issues discussed are: the importance of institutional structures; the relevance of traditional and local knowledge; the legal and policy frameworks; gender and other equity issues; and benefit-sharing. The case studies in Part IV highlight specific areas where communities are involved in various capacities in the management of natural resources.

This comparative study in terms of the issues discussed and the countries covered is interesting as well as useful for those in environmental studies, natural resource management, and community development.

Bhargavi V. Davar. *Mental Health of Indian Women: A Feminist Agenda*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1998. 281 pages. Hardbound. Indian Rs 375.00.

Globally, there exists a great concern over the mental health of women. The book is about the mental health of Indian women, written from the viewpoint of social science philosophy and feminism. It is based on the psycho-therapeutic and the psychiatric literature published since the late 1960s. The stress is on the critical implications of the available mental health discourse on the clinic, from the point of view of women who approach it having suffered from mental distress.

The author examines the data and documented material on the subject, covering theory, clinical practice, and policy. The topics discussed are: the

epidemiology of mental illness among Indian women; aetiology of mental diseases in terms of socio-demography, violence, and culture-specific distress behaviour; gender bias in mental health services; and female 'self' in the context of morality and mental illness. At the end it is argued that the gender perspective be considered as part of the phenomenon of mental health among Indian women.

Mina Swaminathan (ed). *The First Five Years: A Critical Perspective on Early Childhood Care and Education in India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1998. 312 pages. Softbound. Indian Rs 225.00.

Every government in India, through various schemes and development of institutions, has attempted to provide care and education to children below six years of age. In addition, the private sector has participated equally in this field. But so far as the understanding and practice of the issue is concerned, in reality, the efforts are still inadequate.

This pioneering volume provides the micro and macro outlook on the subject, an area largely neglected in India. Recognising the importance of a small 'voluntary sector' squeezed between the government and the private sector, Part I analyses eight such innovative grassroots programmes to draw lessons from their experiences. Part II draws the macro picture. The series of essays in this section examines a variety of issues including the historical framework and the evolution of early childhood care and education in India; training of relevant personnel; the critical area of costs and benefits; the complex weave between the intersecting needs of women and children; the philosophical and cultural context of early childhood care and education; and the challenges and issues confronting this.

T. Scarlett Epstein, A. P. Suryanarayana, and T. Thimmegowda. *Village Voices: Forty Years of Rural Transformation in South India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1998, 242 pages. Softbound. Indian Rs 195.00.

Village Voices is a detailed description of the excitements as well as the difficulties involved in living in and studying rural society. It offers an insight into the process of rural development, changes that have occurred in two South Indian villages in four decades. A unique feature of this book is that it documents not only the analysis of three authors separately, but, on some occasions, village informants are also allowed to express themselves.

This absorbing book highlights the importance of culturally sensitive development strategies. It promotes a growing concern about rural development that seeks to re-establish the human element in the village studies and makes the reader feel as if he were in direct contact with the villagers.